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BLOODRAYNE™
LYCAN REX

BloodRayne is a Dhampir - a product of her human mother's rape by her vampire father. Born with the powers of a vampire without all of the weaknesses. She was taken in by an underground organization calling themselves The Brimstone Society - a top-secret fraternity that hunts down and destroys supernatural threats. BloodRayne protects humanity from things that ordinary people shouldn't have to deal with.

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BRIMSTONE MANOR, 1920
NOOOooo!!!
STOP!! FOR THE LOVE OF MARY, LEAVE THE BOY ALONE!!!
UNHAND HIM YOU MONSTERS! MY SON HAS COMMITTED NO CRIME AGAINST YOU! HE'S JUST A BOY!

LORD SHERRER! IS IT YOU THAT HAS ORDERED THIS ATROCITY?
WE DO ONLY WHAT WE ARE FORCED TO DO, LORD WILBURY.
THE BOY IS DOOMED--YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS I.
THE BITE OF A LYCAN REX CANNOT BE QUESTIONED... EVEN BY YOU.
TO HELL WITH YOUR UNHOLY JUDGEMENTS!
YOU WILL NOT SENTENCE MY SON TO DEATH! I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
DO YOU HEAR ME LORDS OF BRIMSTONE? I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME. THE BOY WILL TURN ANY MINUTE.
ESCORT LORD WILBURY TO HIS CHAMBERS. A FATHER SHOULD NOT HAVE TO WITNESS SUCH AN ACT.

I HAVE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO STUDYING *LYCANTHROPY*, AS DID MY FATHER BEFORE *ME!!* I CAN CURE HIM!
YOU KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE, *I CAN SAVE HIM!*
YOU HAVEN'T THE TIME, *OLD* FRIEND. YOU HAVEN'T THE TIME.
I *GAVE* MY *LIFE* TO THE *SOCIETY!* MY SON WAS TO DO THE *SAME!*
LET NOT THESE HOODS MASK OUR HUMANITY.
TRAITORS!! HEAR ME NOW, LORDS OF BRIMSTONE--I'LL SEE YOU *DEAD* FOR *THIS!!*
THINK OF ME *EVERY NIGHT* FROM NOW, LORDS! FOR *TONIGHT* I *SWEAR*--
--I'LL KILL YOU ALL!!!

LONDON--
TWENTY
YEARS
LATER
I CAN MAKE A SCARY FACE TOO IF YOU BOYS WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE CONTEST.
BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM!
UNGH!
...I HATE WEREWOLVES...
THE MASTER DEMANDS YOUR EXTINCTION.
THE MASTER DESIRES A NEW WORLD.

"THE MASTER" OBVIOUSLY HAS WAY TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE IN HIS MANGY LITTLE MUTTS...
...HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE SENT MONGRELS TO DO A PEDIGREE'S JOB.
SHUNK!
SHUNK!
ARGGGGGGGGGGGH!!!
JUST ME AND YOU, FIDO.
TELL ME WHO THIS MASTER OF YOURS IS AND I'LL MAKE THIS AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE.
RRRRRRRRR...

HMPH. TYPICAL LYCAN.
BRIMSTONE MANOR
AGENT RAYNE... WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
OH, SAVE IT.
I WAS ATTACKED BY TWO LYCANS TONIGHT.
LYCANS DON'T ATTACK VAMPIRES. EVER.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?
MORE THAN YOU KNOW, I AM AFRAID.
TONIGHT WAS NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT. THE LYCANS HAVE BEEN PREYING ON THE SUPERNATURAL POPULATION AS A WHOLE FOR OVER A MONTH NOW.
AND YOU WAITED UNTIL I WAS MADE A TARGET TO TELL ME?
ALL DUE RESPECT, AGENT RAYNE... WE HAD TO BE SURE OF WHAT WAS CAUSING THE DISTURBANCE.
FOLLOW ME AND ALL WILL BE REVEALED.

HIS NAME IS ROGERS WILBURY. HE WAS A SKILLED AND TALENTED BRIMSTONE LORD WHO DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE STUDY OF THE LYCAN RACE, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS WEREWOLVES.
WILBURY WAS INTENT ON ELIMINATING THE LYCAN THREAT AS A WHOLE. HAD HE NOT GONE INSANE, HE ASSUREDLY WOULD HAVE.
WILBURY KEPT A LIVE WEREWOLF IN THIS CAGE FOR STUDY PURPOSES.
FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR HE WOULD SEDATE AND STUDY IT AS HE GREW CLOSER TO A COMPLETE AND TOTAL UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR KIND.
ONE DAY, THE LYCAN ESCAPED.
DID IT KILL HIM?
WORSE. HIS SON WAS APPRENTICING UNDER HIM IN PREPERATION OF ONE DAY JOINING THE SOCIETY.
THE LYCAN EXACTED ITS REVENGE BY DEALING THE BOY A NON-FATAL BITE TO THE ARM.
IT WAS PERFECT REVENGE--- THE BOY WAS TO BECOME THAT WHICH HIS FATHER SOUGHT TO DESTROY.
LORD WILBURY LOST CONTROL OF HIMSELF. HE RAMBLED ON ABOUT HOW HE COULD CURE THE BOY AND PREVENT HIS TRANSFORMATION.
WE DID THE ONLY THING WE COULD...

...WE KILLED THE BOY BEFORE HE TURNED.
IN A FIT OF RAGE, WILBURY PLACED BLAME ON US AND SWORE HIS REVENGE. WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE.
HE'S HERE--LIEKUNOVISK, RUSSIA; BIRTH PLACE OF THE LYCAN RACE.
WILBURY APPEARS TO BE SOMEHOW COMMANDING A LARGE LYCAN ARMY FROM HERE WITH THE HELP OF A LYCAN REX.
Liekunovisk
LYCAN... REX?
WEREWOLF KING--THE CENTER OF WILBURY'S STUDY.
THEY DIFFER FROM OTHER LYCANS IN SEVERAL DISTINCT WAYS, MOST NOTABLY THEIR ABILITY TO EXERT MENTAL CONTROL OVER THE LOWER CLASS.
THAT, AND THE FACT THEY ARE THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF AND INFINITELY MORE POWERFUL THAN THE USUAL LYCAN. WILBURY MUST BE ALLIED WITH ONE IN ORDER TO BE ACTING AS HE IS AMONG THE LYCANS.
HERE, TAKE THESE.
THE VIALS CONTAIN THE EXPERIMENTAL LYCAN ANTIDOTE THAT WILBURY SPENT HIS TIME HERE DEVELOPING. AFTER HIS DEPARTURE WE CONTINUED ITS DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTUALLY FINISHED IT.
THE VIALS ARE MADE TO AFFIX TO THE BACK OF YOUR FANGS SO THAT YOU CAN ADMINISTER THE ANTIDOTE WITH A SIMPLE BITE. THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE SHOULD YOU ENCOUNTER A LYCAN REX.

THE SUPERNATURALS ARE JUST ONE OF HIS TARGETS, AGENT RAYNE.
THE VILLAGE OF LIEKUNOVISK IS OVERRUN WITH WEREWOLVES, AND IT APPEARS WILBURY ENVISIONS A NEW WORLD WHERE HUMANS ARE REPLACED BY LYCANS AS THE DOMINANT SPECIES...
"...THE WORLD IS COUNTING ON YOU TO STOP HIM."
CHILDREN, COME AND JOIN YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. THIS IS A GLORIOUS DAY--ONE THAT YOUR MASTER HAS PATIENTLY AWAITED FOR MANY YEARS.
THE TIME HAS COME TO MOVE AGAINST OUR GREAT NEMESIS. EVEN AS I SPEAK, A PACK OF YOUR BRAVE SIBLINGS IS EN ROUTE TO THE HOUSE OF THE ENEMY.
WE WILL HIT THEM QUICKLY AND WITHOUT MERCY...AFTER WE HAVE SPREAD THROUGHOUT RUSSIA, WESTERN EUROPE WILL BE NEXT IN LINE TO FALL. THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO STAND IN OUR WAY...
ONCE WE HAVE THE BRIMSTONE, THE WORLD IS OURS.

LIEKUNOVISK, RUSSIA
FIND LYCAN EMPIRE. INFILTRATE LYCAN EMPIRE. STOP CRAZY LYCAN DICTATOR. FIGHT INSANELY POWERFUL LYCAN REX. THIS SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD, SHOULD IT?
YEAH... RIGHT.
〈 TURN AROUND! THERE'S NOTHING AHEAD OF YOU BUT DEATH AND THE DEVIL HIMSELF! 〉*
* TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.

〈 IT'S HELL ON EARTH, I SWEAR TO IT! DEMONS IN THE FORM OF WOLVES ROAM FREELY! MY SON WAS ALMOST MURDERED BY ONE! 〉
〈 IS THIS YOUR BOY? 〉
〈 YES—HE'S ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD. THE WOLF BIT HIM DEEPLY ON HIS LEG AND LEFT HIM TO SUFFER IN PAIN. 〉
〈 THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE THE DECENCY TO FINISH US—THEY INFLICT FLESH WOUNDS AND DISAPPEAR. 〉
〈 LEAVE YOUR WOUNDED WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE. 〉

BRIMSTONE MANOR
THE LYCANS HAVE BREACHED US, LORDS! HURRY AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PREPARE!
KERCHEEEESH!
RRRRRR
RRRRRR

FWHUMP!
RAAAARGHH!
ARM YOURSELVES, LORDS! WE FIGHT UNTIL OUR LAST BREATHS!

YOU'RE GONNA *OWE* ME BIG FOR THIS, KID.
AND I MEAN *BIG*.
〈 FEELING BETTER? 〉
〈 ... WHO... ARE YOU? 〉
〈 YOUR *GUARDIAN ANGEL*. WHAT'S YOUR NAME? 〉
〈 MICHAEL'S. 〉
〈 MICHAEL'S, I'M HERE TO *STOP* THE *MONSTERS* THAT ARE HURTING YOUR VILLAGE, BUT I NEED YOUR *HELP*. 〉
〈 I NEED YOU TO *SHOW* ME WHERE THE MONSTERS LIVE. I PROMISE I WON'T LET ANY OF THEM *HURT* YOU... CAN YOU BE BRAVE FOR ME? 〉
〈 WILL I BE A *HERO*? 〉
〈 THE HERO OF *ALL* OF *RUSSIA*. 〉

THE BATTLE IS LOST! ESCAPE TO THE SAFE ROOM!
COME, LORDS! HOPE HAS ABANDONED US!
CLANK!
HURRY, RAYNE... OUR LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS.

〈 YOU'RE A FINE HERO, MICHAELIS. 〉
〈 TAKE MY COAT AND HIDE YOURSELF WELL. WHEN I COME BACK, I'LL CALL OUT TO YOU, OKAY, COMRADE? 〉
〈 YOU PROMISE YOU WILL BE BACK? 〉
〈 I PROMISE. 〉
:SNIFF:
:SNIFF:
SOMEONE INTRUDES...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NOT USED TO HAVING VISITORS DOWN HERE?

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
RRRRRRR
CHUKT! CHUKT!
CRACK!
RAAAAAAAAAA!

COME ON THEN!
ENOUGH!!!

SO THE BRIMSTONE HAS SENT THEIR PET D'HAMPIR AS A LAST RESORT TO STOP ME... PARDON MY LACK OF INTIMIDATION.
YOUR SO-CALLED "LORDS" ARE PAYING FOR THEIR BbetrayEL EVEN AS WE SPEAK. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, FREAK?
THE BRIMSTONE IS NOT SO EASILY DEFEATED, MR. CRAZY MAN.
I WANT THE REX THAT YOU'RE USING TO CONTROL THE LYCAN POPULATION. NOW.
REX? OH, REX! THERE'S A YOUNG LADY HERE TO SEE YOU!
REX?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT... I KILLED EVERY SINGLE LYCAN REX YEARS AGO SO THAT I COULD RULE THE LYCANS UNCHALLENGED.
SILLY ME.
THEN HOW ARE YOU CONTROLLING THEM ALL?
I SPENT FIFTEEN YEARS TRYING TO CURE LYCANTHROPY.
IT TOOK ONLY FIVE FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO CREATE A LYCAN REX.
YOU WANT THE REX?

HERE I AM!!!

I GAVE MY LIFE TO THEM! FOR WHAT? FOR WHAT?
UNNNNGH!
TO BE BETRAYED BY THEM IN MY TIME OF NEED? I REBUKE THEM!
KRAK!
YOU ARE NOT WORTHY!
I COULD CRUSH EVERY BONE IN YOUR PATHETIC LITTLE BODY.

OR MAYBE I COULD SWALLOW YOU WHOLE!
SHUT--
--UP!!!
SHUNK!
SAAAARRRGHHHH!!!
...KILL YOU! MY EYES!
MY EYES!!!
ONE MORE THING, YOU HEARTLESS MONSTER...
...NEVER CALL ME A FREAK.

〈 MICHAELIS. 〉
〈 IT'S OVER! 〉
BRIMSTONE MANOR
THE LYCANS DISBANDED THE MOMENT YOU DEFEATED WILBURY... OUR LOSSES ARE GREAT, BUT WITHOUT YOU THEY WOULD BE FAR GREATER.
WE OWE YOU MANY THANKS, BRAVE RAYNE.
AND TO THINK, YOU ACCOMPLISHED YOUR GOAL EVEN WITHOUT THE ANTIDOTE.
I WON'T LIE TO YOU, LORD... WHEN I STARTED THIS MISSION I FELT LIKE I WAS CLEANING UP YOUR MESS.
I COMPLIED ONLY BECAUSE WILBURY HAD TO BE STOPPED.
I FOUND SOMETHING THAT IF USED FOR GOOD, MIGHT HELP RECTIFY SOME OF THIS MADNESS.

THE SOLUTION WILBURY USED TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO A LYCAN REX.
IF GIVEN TO THE RIGHT PERSON, THE ENTIRE LYCAN THREAT COULD BE ELIMINATED OVERNIGHT.
BUT PROMISE ME THIS, MY LORD... YOU'LL BE CAREFUL IN THE ACTIONS YOU TAKE. THE WORLD HAS MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE OF VILLIANS.
LET'S TRY NOT TO CREATE ANYMORE.
END.

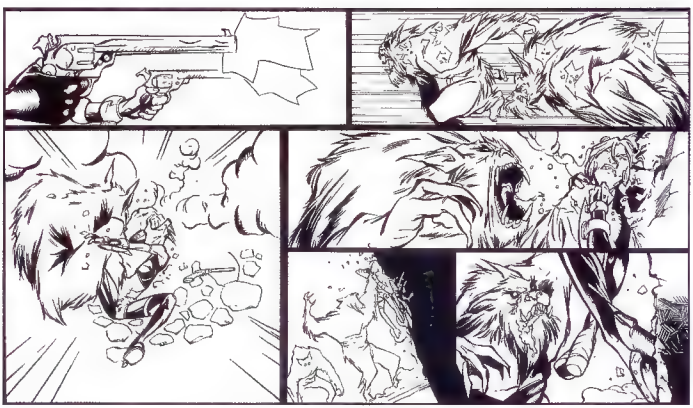
BEHIND THE SCENES OF LYCAN REX

WARNING: DO NOT READ THIS SECTION IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THE STORY YET--IT REVEALS IMPORTANT PLOT POINTS THAT WILL RUIN THE SURPRISE FOR YOU! TURN BACK--YOU'VE BEEN WARNED!

COMMENTARY BY TROY WALL & MARK A. ROBINSON

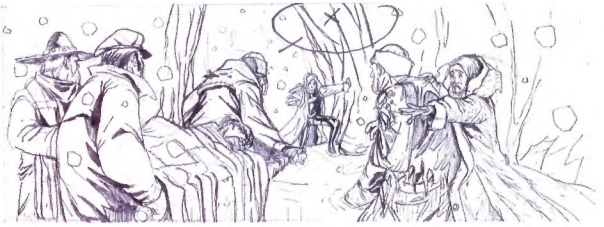
TROY WALL: THE PLOT FOR "LYCAN REX" FORMED QUICKLY AFTER I MADE THE DECISION TO INTERTWINE RAYNE AND THE BRIMSTONE SOCIETY WITH WEREWOLF MYTHOLOGY. I'VE ALWAYS FOUND WEREWOLF MYTHOLOGY INTERESTING (ED DUKESHIRE AND I HAD EVEN DISCUSSED CREATING A COMIC CENTERED ON THEM) AND BLOODRAYNE PRESENTED THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE IT.

IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO TIE THE LYCANS TO THE BRIMSTONE SOCIETY'S DEEP HISTORY. MOREOVER, MY MAJOR GOAL WAS TO MAKE THE BRIMSTONE SOMEWHAT RESPONSIBLE FOR A DISASTER INVOLVING THE LYCANS THAT RAYNE WOULD HAVE TO CLEAN UP. THIS GAVE BIRTH TO THE CHARACTER ROGERS WILBURY, THE TORMENTED BRIMSTONE LORD WHO HAD DEDICATED HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO STUDYING LYCANTHROPY.

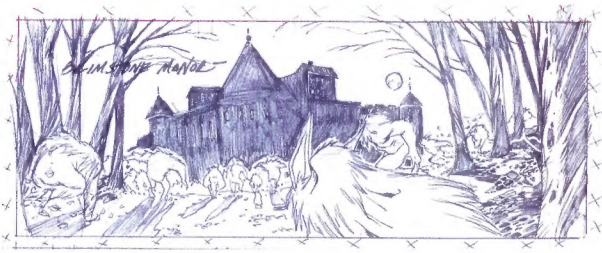


MARK GREATLY ENHANCED THIS SEQUENCE BY ADDING A COUPLE OF PANELS. THE TRUTH IS THAT WRITERS, NO MATTER HOW EXPERIENCED WE BECOME, ARE NOT THE WORLD'S BEST VISUAL STYLISTS. BIG UPS TO MARK FOR MAKING ME LOOK BETTER THAN I AM!

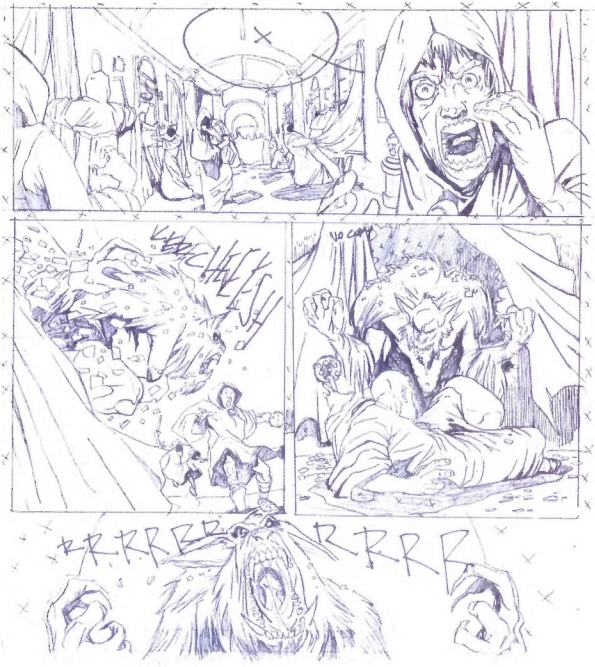
TROY WALL: ONCE WE REACHED PAGE TEN, ALL THE BACK STORY HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AND THE RESOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM BEGAN. FROM PANEL TWO ON PAGE 10, THE READER KNOWS THAT RAYNE IS IN FOR THE FIGHT OF HER LIFE. WE'RE ALSO INTRODUCED TO A GROUP OF RUSSIAN COMMONERS WHO HAVE BEEN DEVASTATED BY THE LYCANS. I WANTED TO SHOW THE DAMAGE THEY HAD BEEN DEALING SO THE READER CHEERED FOR RAYNE THAT MUCH MORE WHEN THE FINAL FIGHT TAKES PLACE.



MARK A. ROBINSON: I HAVE TO SAY THIS IS MY FAVORITE BIT IN THE BOOK -- BECAUSE IN MY OPINION, DIPICTING DRAMA IS A LOT MORE DIFFICULT THAN PLOTTING OUT A FULL BLOWN ACTION SCENE. TROY PRETTY MUCH NEEDED TO GET THE IDEA ACROSS THAT RAYNE MEETS THIS GROUP OF VILLAGERS AND HOW THEY'VE BEEN ATTACKED BY LYCANS -- AFTER THE FACT. I WANTED TO GET THAT SENSE OF MISTRUST AND LACK OF HOPE IN THEIR EXPRESSIONS. THE CHALLENGE WAS THAT I HAD ONLY TWO PAGES TO WORK WITH. CAME OUT PRETTY GOOD TO ME. I REALLY LIKE THE PANELS WITH THE HUSBAND AND WIFE CLUTCHING AT ONE ANOTHER OVER THE GRIEF OF THEIR SON.



TROY WALL: I LOVE THIS SCENE. FROM THE MOMENT I STARTED WRITING THE BOOK, I KNEW I WAS GOING TO INCLUDE A SEQUENCE THAT PIT THE BRIMSTONE LORDS AGAINST A LYCAN HORDE. MARK HANDLED THIS SCENE PERFECTLY -- THE ESTABLISHING SHOT OF PANEL ONE ON PAGE TWELVE REALLY LETS THE READER KNOW THAT SOMETHING AWFUL IS ABOUT TO GO DOWN. WHENEVER I WROTE AN ESTABLISH SCENE WITH THE LYCANS I ALWAYS INCLUDED AN INSTRUCTION TO FIT AS MANY OF THEM ON PANEL AS POSSIBLE -- WEREWOLVES TEND TO BE EVEN MORE INTIMIDATING WHEN TRAVELING IN PACKS! THIS SEQUENCE ALSO GIVES LONG-TIME BLOODRAYNE FANS A NEW TREAT WITH THE LORDS ACTUALLY HAVING TO DO SOME FIGHTING THEMSELVES.



TROY WALL: AS THE BRIMSTONE LORD STATED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY, IT WAS SUSPECTED THAT WILBURY WAS SOMEHOW CONTROLLING THE LYCAN REX. I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING THAT WILBURY WAS GOING TO BECOME THE LYCAN REX AND I HOPE I MANAGED TO DO MY JOB AND THE READER ENJOYED THIS LITTLE PLOT TWIST.

MARK A. ROBINSON: THIS IS A FAV, JUST BECAUSE IT'S MY FIRST REAL "OFFICIAL" BIG SPLASH PAGE. IT WAS A DIRECT TO THE PAGE DRAWING AS WELL -- NOTHING LIKE WHAT I HAD IN MIND DURING THE LAYOUT STAGE. LYCAN REX JUST CAME OUT REAL BAD ASS. I WANTED HIS MOUTH TO LOOK LIKE HE COULD SWALLOW HER WHOLE. MY HOMAGE TO THE "HOWLING".

DARTH SCANNER

DARTH SCANNER

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